

Washington State Patrol

Media Advisory

Chief John R. Batiste



Office of the State Fire Marshal

Michael G. Matlick, State Fire Marshal

Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wa.gov/wsp/wsphome.htmff>

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Contact: Karen Jones, Deputy State Fire Marshal, WSP (253) 912-4932 - Office
Lyall Smith, Deputy State Fire Marshal, WSP (360) 481-3933 - Cell

Combining Family Fun and Fire Prevention

Office of the State Fire Marshal is partnering with the Rutledge corn maze and the Tumwater Fire Department to place fire prevention messages throughout the maze. The fire prevention messages will be placed at check points throughout the maze and will provide a fun outlet for families and friends to learn fire prevention together. In 2005, there were 24,421 fires in Washington homes. These fires caused 64 fire deaths and an estimated property loss of \$143 million. Tragically, most of these fires were preventable.

What: A press conference highlighting:

- The Rutledge corn maze is designed as a fire engine connected to a water hydrant.
- Fire Prevention messages that are posted at checkpoints throughout the maze.
- Aerial footage of the maze will be available on DVD at the event. A still photo is available on the corn maze web site at: www.rutledgencornmaze.com

Who: Speakers at the event include:

- Mike Matlick, State Fire Marshal , Washington State Patrol
- Rick Rutledge, Founder of Corn Maze
- Captain Jim McGarva, Tumwater Fire Department

When: Thursday, September 14, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Rutledge Corn Maze
302 93rd Ave. S.E.
Tumwater, WA

Why: **Fire Risks in Washington**

In Washington State, most fire deaths occur in the home. In 2005, there were 24,421 fires in Washington homes. These fires caused 64 fire deaths and an estimated property loss of \$143 million. Tragically, most of these fires were preventable. The top three causes of fire deaths are: People Falling Asleep While Smoking, Home Heating and Electrical.